

From The Chairperson...



Paul Barnes, Chairperson
FEB Atlanta

We were able to pledge over \$4 million with only 41 percent of our employees making a contribution. These employees gave an average gift of over \$215. I am so very proud of all of those who gave because truly "Hope Lives When You Give".

We did it! We broke the \$4 million barrier for the first time ever and we are soaring to new heights. According to unofficial reports from the United Way, the Federal Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is now the largest workplace giving campaign in the Metropolitan Atlanta area, and rightly so since we are the largest employer with over 47,000 Federal and Postal employees.

We were able to pledge over \$4 million with only 41 percent of our employees making a contribution. These employees gave an average gift of over \$215. I am so very proud of all of those who gave because truly "Hope Lives When You Give". This is what is important about our gifts. Hope lives for the children of the Carrie Steele Pitts Home; hope lives for those waiting for a cure for AIDS, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, etc; hope lives for children in after-school programs or Big Brother/Big Sister; hope lives for the homeless person who needs shelter or the hungry person who is in need of a meal. We keep their hope alive through our gifts.

I challenge you to ponder the difference your gift makes. If you did not give to this year's campaign, my challenge to you is to seriously consider giving next year. Just think about the difference you could make. For your sacrifice of one soft drink per week or one bag of chips or one candy bar, or even one cigarette per week that's only 50 cents or \$1 per pay period, you could be a lifeline for a person in a third world country who needs drinkable water. You could provide counseling to a troubled person. The Red Cross could provide temporary housing for a burned out family. This how big your small sacrifice could

become when it is joined together with the sacrifices of others. If the 59 percent who did not give in this year's campaign had only made that small sacrifice, we would have generated another \$725,000! Let one of our goals for 2004 be to increase our giving percentage. There is a cause that everyone can support. This year's CFC offered over 1700 opportunities to support a nonprofit of your choice. I encourage you to find a cause that you can believe in and support with your dollars.

We all did a great job this year and I say thank you! Thank you!! Thank You!!! □

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ATLANTA - GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Memorandum of Understanding Between GSA and USDOE

GSA is leading the way to improve energy conservation in all Federal space and has made great strides reducing energy consumption in buildings through complying with related executive orders and mandates. Attainment of these goals coincides with GSA's efforts to perform in the most businesslike manner possible. The bottom line is that reducing energy consumption in buildings is just good business. The GSA's Southeast Sunbelt Region Energy Program maintains an innovative energy and water management program that:

- *Protects the environment and preserves national resources; and*
- *Saves tax dollars by reducing utility costs; and*
- *Protects the environment; and*
- *Ensures quality workspace for clients*

On November 21 Southeast Sunbelt Regional Administrator Ed Fielder and James Powell, Director of the Department of Energy's Atlanta Regional Office, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a relationship and commitment to work together for the purpose of attaining energy reduction. Both agencies will work collaboratively to identify funding sources, develop public/private partnership opportunities, and identify promising opportunities for specific applications of energy-efficient, water-efficient and renewable energy technologies in the southeastern Federal buildings. Other agencies can help to reduce energy consumption by ensuring that all unnecessary office equipment and task lighting is turned off when not needed. This equipment alone contributes to 20-percent of a building's energy usage. *For more information on what your agency can do to help reduce energy usage please contact Timothy Wisner at (404)331-6417. □*



Pictured, top (left to right): Edwin E. Fielder, Regional Administrator, GSA, Southeast Sunbelt Region; James R. Powell, Director, USDOE, Atlanta Regional Office

Pictured, bottom: GSA and DOE Energy Team



Please contact us with any questions/comments you may have. If you would like to submit an article, please do so by the 15th of the month.

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*The Right Focus - Atlanta FEB Newsletter
is designed by Barbara Holzworth, GSA, FSS
and published by Pat Brown, DAPS*

The Defense Contract Management Agency - DCMA *"They Enable the Warfighters to Win"*

The Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) is an independent agency within the Department of Defense (DOD). They are responsible for ensuring that Federal acquisition programs, supplies, and services are delivered on time, within cost and meet performance requirements. They provide services and advice to government buying agencies. Before the contract award, DCMA representatives provide advice and services to help construct and write effective contracts that meet the needs of their customers. After the contract award, the DCMA

representatives monitor contractors' performance for compliance with the terms and conditions of the contracts.

In order to perform at the optimal level, the DCMA has established as its vision "to perform our contract management mission so well that the Warfighter receives what he needs when he needs it." Employees understand that the vision starts with each of them. Their customers are the war fighter, the taxpayer, representatives for Military, Federal government buying agencies, government contractors, government counterparts within DOD. They are represented in countries worldwide and in Georgia. □

AFC: Families Are Their Business

The Administration for Children and Families is responsible for a variety of activities that promote the economic and social well being of families, children, individuals and communities. Among ACF responsibilities are adoption and foster care, child support enforcement, welfare reform, the Head start program, refugee resettlement, assistance to persons with developmental disabilities and Native American programs.

November was National Adoption Month

In the United States alone, 126,000 children are in need of adoptive families. It is estimated that approximately 260,000 children in the US enter the foster care system each year. Of these thousands of children 40% will never be a permanent part of a family.

Most adults do not realize that there is little to no cost to adopt children from the state's foster care system. In fact, there is usually state supported training, financial assistance and Medicaid to help provide adequate care for these children in need.

This year's celebration was held in the Tower lobby of the Sam Nunn Atlanta

Federal Center. Representatives from the Office of Adoption and other non-profit adoption agencies were on hand to participate in this worthwhile event.

Grandparents as Caregivers Summit

Although the number of children waiting to be adopted is overwhelming there are some that have taken a stand to make a difference in the life of a child. It is for these grandparents that ACF and the Public Health Science Office of Women's Health convened a one-day summit on November 12, 2003.

Current research and town hall meetings have indicated that there is a tremendous need in Clayton, Dekalb and Fulton counties for these types of initiatives. These three counties lead the Metropolitan Atlanta area with the highest percentage of full time grandparent caregivers. We all know (without research and meetings) that the role of a grandparent transcends race, ethnicity, geographical and economic circumstances. We do applaud the parents of those parents that are indeed becoming GRAND parents.

The planned outcome of this summit was to assist human service agencies and other community organizations with identifying

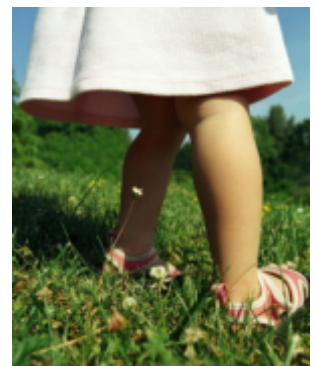
roles that they can play in order to assure both grandparents and grandchildren the support needed to sustain dignity in their quality of life.

African American Healthy Marriage Initiative

As our lives unfold most of us will choose marriage and family. Both personally and socially it is in our best interest that we maintain these relationships with care and precision. In the failure of this ideal we find displaced children and grandparents as primary caregivers. In light of this education and prevention are crucial in the result of healthy marriages. For this reason many youth, faith, civic and community leaders gathered together at Morehouse School of Medicine Research Center for a two day forum November 7th and 8th to propose a strategy aimed at strengthening families by promoting healthy marriage and thereby increasing child well being.

The forum included workshops, theater, music and open sessions about issues that are specific to the African American community today. By the end of these sessions more couples that will or have chosen marriage should have received assistance in developing the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain healthy marriages. □

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ATLANTA FEDERAL COMMUNITY

2003 Combined Federal Campaign History in the Mailing!

As the 2003 Metropolitan Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) approaches the finish line, the federal postal service community, federal workers and friend have donated over 4 million dollars to the 2003 Metropolitan Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Once again the federal workers and friends have stepped to the plate to help those in need. Donations received so far, exceeds the donations collected in previous years. Because of the generosity and caring of the federal workers and friend, a difference will be made in the lives of those in need.

A spirit of giving was released from the start of the campaign on September 29, 2003. It is hard to believe that was just sixty-seven days ago. In the time that has elapsed, a countless amount of popcorn has been popped; rallies have occurred throughout the 42 counties of the campaign; many balloons have been delivered; countless CFC messages delivered but most importantly many lives will be positively affected by the generosity of many people.

We can not say thank you enough for the support and enthusiasm exhibited by the Federal community. The successful results of this campaign truly depicts the character the employees and the organizations of this community.

Theresa Spearman Ovbije
Director 2003 CFC





ATLANTA FEDERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD - LUNCH AND LEARN

Protect Yourself Against Identity Theft

On December 4, 2003, the Federal Executive Board sponsored the first of our new "Lunch and Learn" series. The topic was quite timely for this time of year "Protecting Yourself Against Identity Theft." Identity Theft happens when a person wrongly assumes another person's identity for financial or other purposes. The identity thief obtains information such as your social security number, credit card information, date and place of birth. With this information, he or she is able to obtain credit cards, bank accounts, driver's license and other financial and legal documents in the victim's name. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in America.

Inspector Yulanda Parks of the U. S. Postal Inspection Service, led a very informative presentation for the 60 or so persons present. Follow is some tips to protect you:

► *Don't leave mail in your mailbox overnight or on weekends.*

- *Deposit mail in U. S. Postal Service collection boxes. Never leave the flag up on your home mail box for pickup.*
- *Review your consumer credit report annually. You may call Equifax at 1-800-997-2493 or one of the other Credit Bureaus at 1-888-397-3742 or 1-800-916-8800.*
- *Report all lost or stolen credit cards immediately.*
- *Beware of mail or telephone solicitations disguised as promotions offering instant prizes or awards designed solely to obtain your personal information or credit card numbers.*
- *Never leave receipts at bank machines, bank counters, trash receptacles, or unattended gasoline pumps. Keep track of all your paperwork.*

- *Shred pre-approved credit applications, credit card receipts, bills, and other financial records.*
- *Memorize your social security number and all of your passwords. Do not record them on any cards or on anything in your wallet or purse.*

These are a few of the suggestions made. For more information visit one of these web sites: www.usps.com/postalinspectors; www.consumer.gov/idtheft; www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/idtheft; www.fdic.gov/consumers. □

31ST ANNUAL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS Save The Date For Luncheon!!! MAY 6, 2004

Each year the Federal Executive Board (FEB) presents awards to recognize excellence in job performance and special contributions to quality government, the public, or the community through volunteerism. Nominations are requested across the federal community with a luncheon held to honor all nominees during Public Service Recognition Week. This year the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA will serve as the host agency and Peggy Fouts is the coordinator for the awards and luncheon. Plans are underway and we want all federal agencies to participate. So save the date of Thursday, May 6, 2004 for the awards luncheon and look for more details after the new calendar year. Remember, this is a perfect opportunity to recognize significant achievements and the high caliber of the federal workforce in the Atlanta area. □



Rich's: The Store That Married A City

On December 18, 2003, a new exhibit joined Atlanta downtown and now the old Rich's clock has company. In the window of the 1924 Rich's Building, (a part of the Atlanta Federal Center), is "Percival" the Pig and other wonderful artifacts from the "Rich's Glory Days".

This historic exhibit shows visually the important story of the relationship between

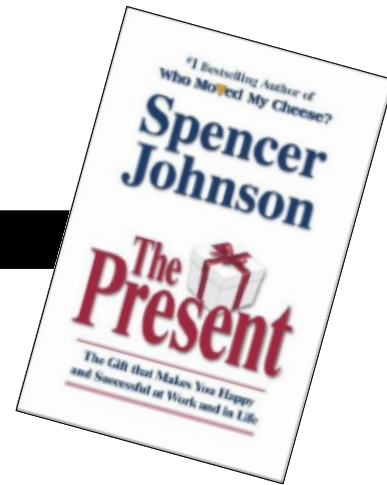
the City of Atlanta and Rich's and the Rich's family who founded and ran the store for more than a century. Some of the wonderful things on display include ornaments from the lighting of The Great Tree atop Rich's at Thanksgivings past; jewelry, hats, shoes, Samonite luggage, gloves, old desks, a vintage cash register, and other wonderful items previously sold by Rich's. There is even an old Rich's receipt.

The development of this exhibit was based on a unique partnership between Georgia State University students in the Heritage Preservation program, The Atlanta History Center and the General Services Administration. ▣



INSIDE BACK PAGE REVIEW

The Present by Spencer Johnson



If you enjoyed *Who Moved My Cheese* you'll love this new book by Spencer Johnson! The new book, simply called *The Present* is a follow-up to his classic 1984 book "The Precious Present". Just as *Who Moved My Cheese* help us to deal with change. *The Present* is designed to help us to learn to enjoy the present. Like the Cheese book, this book also is a short 100 pages of quick reading.

The Present is a fable about a young boy and an old man. It is about learning from the past, living in the present and preparing for the future. The boy meets the old man when the boy is quite young. The old man offers him a present. Through life, the boy often thinks of the old man and his present. However, it is when the boy is a man and facing some of the hardships of life that he really reflects on the offer. He is frustrated because he didn't get the promotion he wanted and he recently broke up with his girlfriend. He returns to the old man to ask him to help him find The Present. The old man responds, "Only you have the power to find The Present for yourself". So the young man sets out on a tireless search for this magical gift that holds the secret to his personal happiness and business success. It

is only after he has searched high and low that he stops to relax. As he spends some quiet time to reflect on his life, he discovers The Present and all of the promises it offers.

This book is not a magic formula but rather a gentle reminder that we often spend too much time focusing on what has already happened that we can't change or worrying about what will happen tomorrow. When we do this, we often fail to enjoy today. From the old man, the young man learns to pay attention to the past, to learn from the mistakes of the past, but then to let go. He learns to live in the moment to enjoy today, because tomorrow is not promised. He also learns how to plan for the future as best as possible, but not to spend so much time planning for the future that you lose today.

When you find The Present you will be happier. It's about pursuit of The Present. Stop trying so hard. Live in the now. When you do, you will find that you have more peace of mind; you are more productive and more prosperous. Focus on The Present to find whatever is

important to you and to those you work and live with. The book will help you find insights about yourself that you will want to explore more at a later time. It is the kind of book you can read over and over.

So how does this book help me in the workplace? The book will help you understand how your actions play in your life. What things did you do in the past that you need to learn from and correct in your present? How can you respond differently in the present? What plan for the future do you need to put into action now? What should you be doing now that will help you get better results, more productivity, and less stress? What should you do to get the most important things done? This book will help you to be your best self in The Present. It also will help you to deal with your emotions, planning, execution and in bringing out the best in others.

Get yourself The Present and give it to others!

Reviewer: Gwenne Campbell



This book is not a magic formula but rather a gentle reminder that we often spend too much time focusing on what has already happened that we can't change or worrying about what will happen tomorrow. When we do this, we often fail to enjoy today.

Upcoming Events



**For questions
or additional information
please call Gwenne Campbell
at (404) 331-4400**

february 2004

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Full Board Meeting

mark your calendar
and plan to participate



This is the season of the year where we are a little more festive, a little more caring, and a little more generous in our giving.

As a Federal community, we certainly have demonstrated our care for those in need. This year, thanks to your generosity, we gave the Combined Federal Campaign over \$4.1 million! The hungry will be better fed; the homeless will find more shelter; the sick and lonely will find more of the care they need. The world will be a better place because you cared enough to share from your bounty.

All of us are challenged to carry the spirit of the season into the new year and mentor a child; volunteer for some program to work with the elderly or children; work to eradicate hunger; develop a partnership with a community based group; be more customer-focused. Look for what you can do to build Peace On Earth and Good Will Toward Men. Truly make this a season of rejoicing and giving the whole year through!

I Wish to Each of You and Your Staff, a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year Filled With Love, Peace, and Prosperity.

Joy To The World!

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**Please note
this correction...**

The Atlanta FEB
website address is:
www.atlanta.feb.gov